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Diana T Fritz 03/15/2007 03:02:03 PM From DB/Inbox: Search Results

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CONFIDENTIAL

SIPDIS  
TELEGRAM

March 29, 2004

To: No Action Addressee  
Action: Unknown  
From: AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI (ABU DHABI 903 - UNKNOWN)  
TAGS: PREL  
Captions: None  
Subject: UAE: REACTION TO U.S. VETO ON RESOLUTION CONDEMNING  
ISRAEL  
Ref: None

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 00903

SIPDIS  
CXABU:  
ACTION: POL  
INFO: RSO AMB DCM P/M ECON

DISSEMINATION: POL  
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: AMB:MMWAHBA  
DRAFTED: POL:JFMAYBURY  
CLEARED: DCM:RAALBRIGHT

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FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3746  
INFO RUEHXK/ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 1176  
RUEHDE/AMCONSUL DUBAI 3893

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 000903

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/FO, NEA/ARP, NEA/IAI

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/28/2009  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [IS](#) [TC](#)  
SUBJECT: UAE: Reaction to U.S. veto on resolution  
condemning Israel

Ref: State 67064

Classified by Ambassador Marcelle M. Wahba, reasons  
1.5 (b) and (d).

¶1. (C) Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Shaykh Hamdan bin Zayed told the Ambassador that the March 25 U.S. veto on the resolution condemning Israel for Shaykh Ahmed Yassin's death was a "very disturbing development," and added that the primary goal should now be to calm the situation. The Ambassador said a veto could have been avoided had the resolution been balanced and not one-sided. While the resolution condemned the killing of

Shaykh Yassin, the leader of HAMAS, it did not condemn HAMAS, which has promoted terror and violence.

¶2. (C) Shaykh Yassin's assassination and the subsequent U.S. veto on the resolution condemning Israel have been the major topics at majlises, coffee shops, classrooms, and in newspapers. Our contacts say that the veto will encourage Israel to go ahead and kill other leaders of HAMAS, and possibly even Arafat. The common perception is that the U.S. will protect Israel no matter what Israel does. While the U.S. gets blamed for protecting Israel, Arab states get blamed for failing to gain the respect of the U.S.

¶3. (C) During the Ambassador's visit to UAE University in Al Ain to open an American Corners exhibit on March 27, a student asked how the U.S., which claims that it supports human rights, could veto the UN resolution condemning Israel for the assassination of Shaykh Yassin. The Ambassador replied that the resolution did not include a condemnation of HAMAS and was drafted in a one-sided manner to embarrass the U.S. The day of Shaykh Yassin's assassination, students in a political science class at Zayed University engaged in an hour-long discussion about his assassination and his role in the Arab-Israeli dispute instead of hearing the scheduled lecture. "The students' sentiments were similar to those echoed in all parts of the Middle East. There is frustration and anger," professor Nadir El Mahdy said.

WAHBA